



DEF 145  
Department of State  
TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 076

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ACTION EA 15

INFO EUR 15, IO 13, ACDA 16, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, AEC 11, NASA 04,

SCI 05, OST 01, RSR 01, 146 W

P R 171040Z MAR 69  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG  
GENEVA FOR DISDEL

SUBJECT: CHICOM COMMENT ON ABM DECISION

1. CHINA'S FIRST COMMENT NIXON'S ABM DECISION CARRIED BY PEKING RADIO MAR. 16. BROADCAST OFFERS SELECTED QUOTATIONS FROM PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE AS EVIDENCE THAT ABM, WITH SPEARHEAD POINTED AT CHINA, IS LATEST STEP IN JOINT US-SOVIET NUCLEAR COLLUSION AGAINST WORLD'S PEOPLE AND "PARTICULARLY AGAINST CHINESE PEOPLE."

2. ACCORDING BROADCAST, PRESIDENT "REPEATEDLY AND OPENLY" INDICATED TO USSR THAT DECISION NOT INTENDED AS PROVOCATION AGAINST IT, URGED ENDING MISSILE RACE. THIS, ACCORDING TO PEKING, WAS IN ORDER FACILITATE US-USSR COOPERATION IN DEALING WITH "WHAT HE CALLED THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY." AS PROOF LATTER EFFORT ALREADY UNDERWAY, CHICOMS CITE NIXON STATEMENT THAT SOVIET ABM RADAR "ALSO" AIMED AT CHINA. BROADCAST ALSO CHARGES THAT DECISION REPRESENTS STEP TO "ENCOURAGE SOVIET REVISIONISTS IN WANTONLY OPPOSING CHINA."

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| DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR                                                 |                    |
| REVIEWED BY <i>[Signature]</i>                                               | DATE <i>1/1/80</i> |
| RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE _____ |                    |
| TS AUTH. _____                                                               | REASON(S) _____    |
| ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>                           |                    |
| DECLASSIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> RELEASABLE <input type="checkbox"/>    |                    |
| RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>                                      |                    |
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3. WHEREAS PEKING MEDIA HAS PREVIOUSLY IGNORED MOST OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S REFERENCES TO CHINA AND SINO-US RELATIONS AT EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCES, ON THIS OCCASION IT HIGHLIGHTED THEM, IN EXCLUSION OF THE OTHER REASONS ADDUCED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR PROCEEDING WITH ABM SYSTEM. OTHERWISE, BROADCAST MERELY REITERATES EARLIER CHICOM CHARACTERIZATION OF ORIGINAL US DECISION BUILD AMB (NCNA SEPT. 20, 1967). ACCORDING THIS BASIC THEME, US AND SOVIETS, "FILLED WITH FEAR" WHEN CHINA DEVELOPED "OWN DEFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS," DECIDED CREATE ANTI-CHINA ABM SYSTEM "UNDER SMOKESCREEN OF PREVENTING SO-CALLED CHINESE NUCLEAR THREAT."

4. THUS, TIMING OF NIXON ANNOUNCEMENT (COINCIDING WITH CURRENT SINO-SOVIET BORDER CLASHES) AND ITS REFERENCE TO CHINESE NUCLEAR THREAT IS BEING EXPLOITED BY PEKING TO BOLSTER CHINESE SUSPICIONS OF EXISTENCE US-USSR PLOT TO "SURROUND AND SUPPRESS" CHINA.  
GP-3.

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